

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 GUATEM 01549 032338 Z

12

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 COME-00 AGR-20 TRSE-00 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 STR-08 SIL-01 LAB-06

RSR-01 /132 W

----- 097703

R 032230 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9300

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 1549

E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT: MEAT PLANTS CLOSING FOR MONTH

PASS AGRICULTURE/ APHIS, FAS

1. FACED WITH MEAT AND LIVE CATTLE PRICE PRESSURES, MINISTRY OF ECONOMY HAS ORDERED 25 PERCENT REDUCTION IN BEEF EXPORTS FOR APRIL TO 1.9 MILLION POUNDS. GUATEMALA'S THREE EXPORT PLANTS WILL CEASE OPERATIONS ONE MONTH, APRIL 15- MAY 15, BUT MINEC TRADE DIRECTOR SAID 40.15 MILLION POUNDS BEEF EXPORTS AUTHORIZED WILL BE MET IN 1973.

2. EXTREMELY DRY SEASON AND GREATER SLAUGHTER HAVE BOOSTED LIVE CATTLE PRICES FROM 20 TO AS HIGH AS 25 CENTS/ LB. PAST THREE MONTHS. OFFICIAL SAYS RISING PRICES ONE SIDE AND MEAT BOYCOTT BY U. S. HOUSEWIVES ON OTHER TRIGGERED QUOTE DRY SEASON ADJUSTMENTS UNQUOTE.

3. ONE PLANT CLOSED MARCH 8 FOR THREE MONTHS TO INCREASE SLAUGHTER AND PROCESSING CAPACITY FROM 350 TO 500 HEAD IN 8- HOUR DAY. SECOND PLANT FEARS LOSSES BECAUSE IT HAS MORE CATTLE ON HAND THAN ALLOWED TO SLAUGHTER. THIRD HAS HAD LABOR PROBLEMS AND MAY BENEFIT BY CLOSURE.

BOWDLER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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